Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 NSC-07 H-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03

AID-20 DRC-01 /084 W

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R 020801Z AUG 74 FM AMCONSUL LAHORE TO SECSTATE WASHDC 104 INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD AMCONSUL KARACHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJECT: PPP WINS ANOTHER BYELECTION

- 1. PPP CONTINUED TO BAT 1,000 BY WINNING NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BY-ELECTION AT GUJRANWALA JULY 29. PPP CANDIDATE MIAN HABIBUR RAHMAN WON ABOUT 77,000 OF SOME 96,000 VOTES CAST. CLOSEST RIVAL WAS INDEPENDENT NAVED ANWAR NAVED WHO WON ALMOST 19,000 VOTES. REHMAN WILL ASSUME SEAT IN NA VACATED BY DEATH OF MANZURUL HASSAN.
- 2. AS IT HAS IN ALL RECENT BY-ELECTIONS, OPPOSITION UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT (UDF) BOYCOTTED GUJRANWALA BY-ELECTION ON GROUNDS THAT IT WOULD BE RIGGED. HOWEVER, UDF DID SUPPORT INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE NAVED WHO IS STUDENT LEADER OF GUJRANWALA. PPP SENT SEVERAL BIG PROVINCIAL GUNS TO GUJRANWALA, INCLUDING CHIEF MINISTER RAMAY AND REVENUE MINISTER AHMAD (WHO HAILS FROM GUJRANWALA). OPPOSITION ALMOST DISRUPTED BY-ELECTION JULY 28 BY SPREADING WORD THAT GUJRANWALA AUTHORITIES HAD ARRESTED NAVED. THIS CREATED ENOUGH RESENTMENT FOR OPPOSITION TO CALL SUCCESSFUL HARTALS ON JULY 29 AND 30. HOWEVER, WHEN OPPOSITION ATTEMPTED TO TAKE OUT PROCESSION ON JULY 29 POLICE BROKE IT UP WITH TEAR GAS AND LWTHI CHARGES. BECAUSE OF ELECTION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND RESIDUAL ANTI-AHMADIYA TROUBLES IN GUJRANWALA SITUATION

AS OF AUGUST 1 REMAINED TENSE AND FEDERAL SECURITY FORCES WERE PATROLLING STREETS.

3. HABIBUR RAHMAN IS ABOUT 30 YEARS OLD AND COMES FROM UPPER MIDDLE-CLASS FAMILY OF GUJRANWALA. HE IS CONSIDERED FOUNDER-MEMBER OF PPP AND HAS BEEN GENERAL SECRETARY OF GUJRANWALA CITY PPP FOR THREE YEARS OR SO. HE IS REPORTEDLY CLOSE TO GOP INFORMATION MINISTER NIAZI ANDIS MEMBER OF NIAZI'S CENTRAL HAJ COMMITTEE. GRIFFIN

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Message Attributes

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